

April 10, 2009

EXTON, PA—On April 10, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07), visited Analytical Graphics, Inc., in Exton, Pa., to tour the facility, address the staff, and discuss reforms in the defense acquisition process. Analytical Graphics, Inc., or AGI, provides commercial off-the-shelf software to national security and space professionals for integrated analysis of land, sea, air, and space assets. Congressman Sestak addressed questions on the economic recovery and pending changes to the defense budget and acquisition process.

Congressman Sestak is a strong proponent of the defense budget announced by Secretary Gates, which will take major strides toward creating a 21st century force designed for and capable of responding to modern threats. “What we need is a military that gauges its prowess not by counting its forces in terms of the number of ships or planes, but by assessing its capability in the face of real-world threats. In the 21st Century, we need a knowledge-based approach that emphasizes intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and innovators like AGI will help us achieve that goal.”

Congressman Sestak, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, was recently appointed by HASC Chairman Ike Skelton to a newly formed special panel to address the ongoing challenge of defense acquisition reform. During his time in the Navy and in Congress, Congressman Sestak has clearly articulated the need to overhaul our defense appropriations process. In December 2008, he addressed the Center for American Progress on the need for acquisition reform, outlining the work proposals he developed on the Congressional Roles and Missions Panel a year earlier. The Congressman is already working to institute accountability reform with several amendments within this year’s defense authorization bill.

“We need to institute a more effective and efficient process,” the Congressman continued, “utilizing the best within the Defense Department, Congress, and the defense industry as a team that will ensure a more cost-effective military and restore credibility to the process. In these times of economic challenge, we need to be as efficient as possible. Reforms that introduce efficiency and accountability to the process can provide significant savings for taxpayers. I am convinced we can have a more effective as well as more cost-efficient military if we do this right.”

AGI emphasizes “product excellence, customer success, fun, and exceptional stakeholder value. Founded in 1989 and enjoying strong growth in its history, AGI has been named to numerous prestigious lists. It ranked first in the Great Place to Work Institute and Society for Human Resource Management's ‘Best Small Company to Work For in America’ contest in 2004 and 2005, third in 2007, and first in the medium-sized company category in 2006.”

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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